

**Building Capacity for Disaster Response in India
Incident Command System Training
Implementing Agency: USDA Forest Service**

**BASIC/INTERMEDIATE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM
TRAINING
January 21-29, 2004**

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Background

Following the January 20th launch of the GOI-USAID Disaster Management Strategy partnership, the first of eleven courses in the Incident Command System was conducted at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie. The course was taught by emergency management specialists from the USDA Forest Service and DOI to adapt the materials to the Indian context.

Course Cadre Information

The seven-person course cadre consisted of the following individuals:

Deanne Shulman, International Programs, USFS –
Program Manager

Cathy Calloway, Flathead National Forest, USFS –
Course Coordinator

*Rich Caballero, National Interagency Fire
Center, Bureau of Land Management – Instructor*

*Dave Curry, Alaska Interagency Coordination
Center, Bureau of Land Management - Instructor*
Jane Ingebretson, Flathead National Forest, USFS –
Instructor

Dave Johnson, Mount Baker Snoqualamie National
Forest, USFS – Instructor

Laura Chapman, Six Rivers National Forest, USFS – Team Logistics/Administrative
Officer



The primary Indian counterpart for the conduct of this course was Mr. Rajiv Mishra,
Senior Deputy Director of the LBSNAA.



Participant Summary

A total of twenty-three persons attended the course; seven from the LBS academy and the remainder representing the States of Anadhra Pradesh (1), Chattisgarh (1), Gujarat (4), Haryana (1), Jharkhand (1), Maharashtra (1), Orissa

(1), Punjab (1), Rajasthan (1), Sikkim (1), Tamil Nadu (1), Uttaranchal (1), and West Bengal (1). Appendix A is a roster of course attendees. Participant profile is as follows: Relief Commissioner/Disaster Mitigation and Management Centres (4), other state government officials (4), field functionaries (8), LBSNAA Academy faculty (7).

Summary of Participants' Course Evaluation

Participants expressed appreciation for the interactive methodology and the scenario exercises that reflected the Indian environment. They also commented on the benefits of having actual practitioners instructing the course, with all the practical knowledge inherent in such expertise. They requested that videos be used in future courses and also asked that U.S. personnel assist with the TOT in future courses.



Adaptation ProcessMr. Rajiv Mishra, primary LBSNAA counterpart for the conduct of the course, solicited written comments from participants for adaptation of both the training materials and the ICS to the Indian context throughout the course. On the first day of the adaptation period, the attendees worked in small groups to identify issues relating to adaptation of ICS to the Indian disaster response system.

These issues were then shared in plenary. Key state attendees were asked to stay for the remainder of the adaptation period to review the course materials and recommend changes for the Indian context. These remaining individuals were divided into three groups, each with assigned LBSNAA staff and U.S. instructors. They proceeded to systematically review the six modules (each group reviewed two), to make necessary changes. The U.S. instructors served to insure the inherent principles and concepts of ICS were not compromised by the recommended changes.

Participant Feedback on Issues of Integrating ICS into the Indian Disaster Response System

The ICS is a structured and professional approach to disaster response with considerable flexibility in application. The Indian system would benefit from such a systematic approach to disaster response. The delegation of authority from the District Magistrate to a professional team of disaster managers will reduce the overwhelming workload of the DM during a disaster. The Documentation Unit of the ICS will require considerable development in the Indian version of ICS. A Field Operations Guide that includes terminology, position descriptions, and roles and responsibilities will need to be developed. India will also need to establish effective resources ordering processes and

logistic support systems, these consistent with on-going efforts to improve the tactical response resources in India. Coordination and dispatch procedures also need to be strengthened. There was recognition of the significant training workload ahead, to effectively implement ICS nationally.

General Observations by U.S. Team

The Indian participants were highly engaged and asked questions well outside the scope of the course materials, addressing larger issues of system implementation. Due to the diverse background of the instructors, all questions were answered to the satisfaction of the participant. The combined Basic/Intermediate ICS modules were successful in challenging the participants yet well within the capabilities of participants to assimilate knowledge. During the adaptation process, there were no significant changes to the ICS modules. Overall feedback from participants was very positive.



